NOTE XLII.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF ÆSERNIA.

BY

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Æsernia australica, nov. spec.

Metallic green; the head (a spot at the vertex excepted), the thorax, the base of the anterior femora, the apices of the elytra and the last abdominal segments, flavous; thorax with two greenish spots (sometimes absent).

Length $5^1/_2$—$8^1/_2$ lines.

Elongate, subparallel; head impressed between the eyes, flavous, the vertex with a triangular metallic greenish æneous spot; antennæ half the length of the body, metallic bluish or greenish, the basal joint fulvous below; thorax twice as broad as long, the sides straight, the posterior margin rounded at the middle, the surface impunctate, with a row of deep foveæ near the lateral margins; scutellum black; elytra finely punctate-striate, with a deep transverse depression before and another at the middle, the sides near the lateral margins with three elongate depressions, the apices very faintly punctured; the surface metallic green or purplish, interrupted at the sides below the middle by a flavous band which occupies the entire apex, its inner margin being deeply concave; underside and legs metallic greenish, the base of the anterior femora and the last abdominal segments flavous.

Hab. Australia, Queensland.

The species of *Æsernia* described here, and of which more than 30 specimens are before me which have been kindly sent to me for examination by Mr. Neervoort van de Poll, seems to be intermediate between *A. Whitei* Baly and *A. splendens* Guér. It differs from the first in the shorter antennæ, the smaller greenish spot at the vertex of the head and in the pattern of the elytra, which, instead of having a narrow transverse fulvous band as in *A. Whitei* have their entire apices and part of the sides flavous; this colour forms a broad lateral band, extending upwards to the first third of the elytra, the anterior edge of this band is straight and acutely separated from the metallic portion which extends posteriorly along the suture in a broadly rounded angle, causing the inner margin of the flavous band to assume a concave shape; the two small lateral greenish spots of the thorax are as often absent as present, and the femora are either entirely metallic or with a fulvous upper or lower margin. The colour of the thorax and the shape of the elytral flavous band separates *A. australica* from *A. splendens*.

Of the present genus, no species was previously known from Australia. I give here the description of another apparently new species contained in my collection, and of which a variety has also been received by Mr. van de Poll from Australia.

Æsernia latefasciata, nov. spec.

Metallic green; antennæ black; head and thorax fulvous; elytra dark metallic blue, finely punctate-striate, a broad transverse band below the middle, flavous or fulvous; the base of the femora and the last abdominal segment, fulvous.

Var. Elytra entirely metallic violaceous blue.

Length 8 lines.

Hab. Port Moresby, New Guinea (coll. Jacoby); the variety: Australia, Queensland (coll. van de Poll).

Again closely allied to *A. Whitei* but I believe distinct from that species. The differences are as follows: in the present insect the entire head and thorax are fulvous; the elytra are more finely punctured and the posterior fulvous band is of double the width than in the allied species, the third elytral row of punctures is impressed at its commencement with a deep fovea which in all the specimens of *A. Whitei* which I have examined, is absent. *A. latefasciata* is also distinct, according to the descriptions, from those species described by Dr. Gestro.